

**Wolcott Selectboard
Emergency Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2023**

Wolcott Town Office, 28 Railroad St., 2:00 p.m.

All Minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard
Please see future Minutes for approval of these Minutes

Present: Linda Martin, Kurt Klein, Allen Carpenter, Kurt Billings, Richard Lee
Employees: Deb Klein
Public: Jim Holton, Brett Eagan, Steve Princ, Ryan Bjerke

Martin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Public Comments/Adjustments to the Agenda

Billings asked that the staging of the Town's emergency equipment in the event of a flood be added to the Agenda. No objection.

Discussion – flood damage, next steps, communication/assigned duties going forward

Klein reported on road and culvert damage that he was able to observe as of mid-morning on the west side of Town and North Wolcott. Information and road status from folks in other parts of Town was shared. Some roads are completely washed out. Klein provided an update on what the road crew is working on. The services of a couple of individuals have been retained to assist the road crew on an emergency basis. A couple other folks have volunteered to assist where they can. Road damage is being photographed and coordinates noted for future FEMA processing. Photos can be forwarded to Klein. The Highway Department and the Fire Department experienced some flooding. Insurance claims will need to be filed.

Jim Holton, Fire Chief, Brett Eagan, Captain, and Steve Princ, firefighter and Emergency Management Coordinator, reported to the board on their activities the previous day and through the night. The Department was operating without a full crew. Not all members of the Department were able to get to Wolcott. Neighboring agencies were unable to provide any support. Several water rescues had to be undertaken using their personal equipment. Residents refusing to evacuate when asked to created problems later on. Today, the minimal crew is helping residents pump water out of their basements.

Martin stated that a State of Emergency is in place in Vermont. During an emergency, repairs can be done to make roads passable. Future work may require bids, depending upon the size of the job.

The board discussed how to offer assistance to the public. Many residences in the Village have flooded basements as well as water on the ground floor. The potential health issues in the Village include black mold, compromised wells, and septic systems. There are propane tanks that have gone missing, or are down on their side. FEMA may provide assistance to the public. Those folks would also need to provide photographs of damage and documentation. Due to localized pump failure, many folks in the Village are without water. Landlords will be contacted regarding how the needs of renters are being met. Homes in the Village will need their foundations checked because of the raging water.

Martin will contact the Red Cross to determine what assistance they can provide. Vouchers may be available for those who need to stay in a motel. Klein will check on getting the Town Office septic system pumped. Billings will check on a couple of roads in low-lying areas. Martin will check on Town Hall. The board will put together a packet of information to deliver to Village residents impacted by the flooding. Notice that the Town Office serves as an emergency shelter will be posted on Front Porch Forum and the Town website. Residents need to be warned that more rain is predicted in coming days. Martin and Bjerke will go door-to-door to speak with folks in the Village.

Billings suggested that the Highway Department and the Fire Department stage their equipment at the Elementary School starting on Friday if the river is rising. Holton agreed. The road crew will be notified.

Adjourn: Motion by Billings to adjourn. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next scheduled Selectboard meeting – Friday, July 14, 2023, 3:30 p.m.